

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A system for interactive language instruction comprising:

a first module configured to receive repurposed input text from a repurposed source and convert the input text to audible speech in a selected language, the audible speech being patterned after a model;

a user interface configured to receive utterances spoken by a user in response to a prompt to replicate the audible speech; and,

a second module configured to recognize the utterances and provide feedback to the user, the feedback being comprised of a confidence measure reflecting a precision at which the user replicates the audible speech in the selected language based on a comparison of the utterances to one of the audible speech and the model, wherein the confidence measure is provided as scores for replication of at least one of paragraphs, sentences, words and sub-words.

2. (Currently Amended) The system as set forth in claim 1 further comprising a third module synchronized to the first module for producing a visual pronunciation aid in the form of an animated image of a human face and head pronouncing the audible speech.

3. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 2 wherein the animated image of the human face and head portrays a transparent face and head.

4. (Currently Amended) The system as set forth in claim 2 wherein the first and third modules further include controls to control one of the speed, ~~and of the video~~ animated image and the audible speech, and the vocal characteristics of the audible speech.

5. (Currently Amended) The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the model is one of a predictive model, ~~phoneme model,~~ a diphone model, and a dynamically generated model.

6. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the first module includes files storing model pronunciations for words comprising the input text.

7. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 1 further comprising lesson files wherein the input text is based on data stored in the lesson files.

8. (Currently Amended) The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the ~~input text is based on data received from a source outside of the system.~~ system further comprises:
a mapping of sub-words in a first language to sub-words in a second language for illustrating sound alike comparisons to a student.

9. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the system further includes dictionary files.

10. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the system further comprises a record and playback module.

11. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the system further includes a table storing mapping information between word subgroups and vocabulary words.

12. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the system further includes a table storing mapping information between words and vocabulary words.

13. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the system further includes a table storing mapping information between words and examples of parts of speech.

14. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the system further includes tables of punctuation.

15. (Currently Amended) The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the system includes a plurality of specific pronunciation files, each file of the plurality providing information associated with a different accent, set of proper names, trademarks or technical words.

16. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a first module configured to convert input text to audible speech in a selected language, the audible speech indicative of a model;

a second module synchronized to the first module, the second module producing a visual pronunciation aid in the form of an animated image of a human face and head pronouncing the audible speech;

a user interface positioned to receive utterances spoken by a user in response to a prompt to replicate the audible speech; and,

a third module configured to recognize the utterances and provide feedback to the user, the feedback being comprised of at least one of a score, an icon and an audio segment reflecting a precision at which the user replicates the speech in the selected language based on a comparison of the utterances to one of the audible speech and the model, wherein the feedback is provided for replication of at least one of paragraphs, sentences, words and sub-words.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for voice interactive language instruction comprising:

converting input text data to audible speech data;

generating audible speech comprising phonemes based on the audible speech data;

outputting the audible speech through an audio output device;

generating a visual pronunciation aid in the form of an animated image of a face and head pronouncing the audible speech;

synchronizing the audible speech and the video image;

prompting a user to replicate the audible speech;

recognizing utterances generated by the user in response to the prompting;
comparing the audible speech to the utterances; and,
providing feedback to the user based on the comparison, the feedback comprised of at least one of a score, an icon and an audio segment reflecting a precision at which the user replicates the audible speech, wherein the feedback is provided for replication of at least one of paragraphs, sentences, words and sub-words.

18. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 17 further comprising receiving the input text from a repurposed source via one of a network, a stored lesson file, a scanner, and the internet.

19. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 17 wherein the feedback comprises providing a playback of selected portions of the audible speech and utterances.

20. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the confidence measure comprises at least one of a numeric score, an icon, and an audio segment.

21. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
a first module configured to convert input text to audible speech in a selected language, the audible speech indicative of a model;
a second module synchronized to the first module, the second module producing a visual aid in the form of an adjustable animated image of a human face and head illustrating at least one of appropriate placement and movement of at least one

component of the human head while pronouncing the audible speech;

a user interface positioned to receive utterances spoken by a user in response to a prompt to replicate the audible speech;

a third module configured to recognize the utterances and provide feedback to the user, the feedback being comprised of at least one of a score, an icon and an audio segment reflecting a precision at which the user replicates the speech in the selected language based on a comparison of the utterances to one of the audible speech and the model; and

a record and playback module.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for voice interactive language instruction comprising:

converting input text data to audible speech data;

generating audible speech comprising phonemes based on the audible speech data;

outputting the audible speech through an audio output device;

generating a visual aid in the form of an adjustable animated image of a face and head illustrating at least one of appropriate placement and movement of at least one component of the human head while pronouncing the audible speech;

synchronizing the audible speech and the video image;

prompting a user to replicate the audible speech;

recognizing utterances generated by the user in response to the prompting;

comparing the audible speech to the utterances; and,

providing feedback to the user based on the comparison, the feedback being comprised of at least one of a score, an icon and an audio segment reflecting a

precision at which the user replicates the audible speech and the feedback being further comprised of a playback of selected portions of the audible speech and utterances.

23. (Currently Amended) A system for interactive language instruction comprising:

means for converting input text to audible speech in a selected language, the audible speech being patterned after a model;

means for receiving utterances spoken by a user in response to a prompt to replicate the audible speech;

means for recognizing the utterances and providing feedback to the user on each sub-word or phoneme portion of the utterances, the feedback being comprised of a confidence measure reflecting a precision at which the user replicates the audible speech in the selected language based on the comparison of the utterances to one of the audible speech and the model, wherein the confidence measure is provided as scores for replication of paragraphs, sentences, words, sub-words or phonemes.

24. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 23 wherein the feedback further comprises audio playback.